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RUEHLB/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE 0372  
RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE 1227  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 1312

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [UNSC](#) [LE](#) [SY](#) [QA](#)  
SUBJECT: QATAR STRONGLY HINTS IT WON'T SUPPORT THE SPECIAL  
TRIBUNAL ON LEBANON

REF: STATE 070478

Classified By: Ambassador Chase Untermeyer, reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) During Gulf Security Dialogue discussions in Doha May 24, Acting PM A/S Mull expressed the hope that Qatar would vote for the UN Security Council resolution establishing the Hariri Tribunal under Chapter 7 of the UN Charter. Qatari MFA Assistant Minister Mohammad al-Rumeihi replied, "We will try our best to do so." But later he said, "We are rotating around (i.e. contemplating) abstaining." He worried that adoption of such a resolution might cause some Lebanese factions to fight: "If we vote for it, we'll be attacked by all other Arab powers, from Morocco to Oman. They would say that if an Arab member of the Security Council votes for it, and a civil war results, we will have to take responsibility." He said GOQ prefers new parliamentary elections to resolve the current governmental deadlock, keeping a Chapter 7 resolution as a final option.

¶2. (C) Amb. Mull recognized the delicacy of the situation for Qatar but said that USG believes that stability in Lebanon would be best served by doing what PM Siniora wants, which is to have the Tribunal created. NEA DAS Gordon Gray said Qatar supports a strong central government in Lebanon, and Siniora is the democratically-elected head of government. The assassination of Hariri occurred over two years ago, he said, and the situation cannot wait till new parliamentary elections in November.

¶3. (C) Al-Rumeihi concluded this discussion by agreeing that Hariri's death was a crime. "But we have to know how to save Lebanon. I don't want to link both. If there is a link, we are allergic to that."  
UNTERMEYER